

TOP COW

LEGACY OF KAIN

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"THERE IS A MAGICAL OPERATION OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE: THE INITIATION OF A NEW AEON. WHEN IT BECOMES NECESSARY TO UTTER A WORD, THE WHOLE PLANET MUST BE BATHED IN BLOOD."
--ALEISTER CROWLEY

LOOK AT YOU...



..SELF-
PROCLAIMED
PROTECTORS
OF MAN.

YOU CAN'T
EVEN SAVE
YOURSELVES.

KRAK!





WE EACH PLAY
THE PART FATE
HAS WRITTEN
FOR US.



WE ARE
COMPELLED
INELUCTABLY DOWN
PRE-ORDAINED
PATHS.



FREE WILL IS
AN ILLUSION.





YOUR
DESTINIES
HAVE BEEN
FORETOLD.

YOUR FATE IS
INESCAPABLE.

THE ORDER OF
THE SARAFAN HAS
BEEN KILLING MY
KIND FOR AGES.

DO YOU TRULY
BELIEVE YOU CAN
SUCCEED WHERE SO
MANY OF YOUR
BRETHREN HAVE
FAILED?



YOU WILL JOIN
COUNTLESS OTHERS
BEFORE YOU AND
ACCEPT MY
GREATEST GIFT.



DEATH.



BLOOD.

THE ETERNAL
HUNGER OF MY
KIND.

BUT HOW
DIFFERENT CAN
MY OWN DARK
HEART BE?

I AM KAIN.

I AM THE LAST GUARDIAN--
THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF
THE CIRCLE OF NINE.

AT MY WHIM
THE WORLD WILL
BE HEALED...
OR DAMNED.





WITH EACH STEP I TAKE INTO
THE FUTURE MY CHOICES IN
THE PAST GAIN IN IMPORTANCE.

BUT WILL MY ACTIONS
BE ENOUGH?

ENOUGH TO ENSURE I TAKE
MY RIGHTFUL PLACE AS
RULER OF THIS WORLD?

I AM THE GUARDIAN
OF BALANCE.

I HOLD THE FUTURE OF
NDSGOOTH IN MY HANDS.

BUT MY JOURNEY
HAS BEEN LONG.

THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MISTAKES
LITTERED ALONG THE WAY.

HOW FAR I HAVE TRAVELED
SINCE THE BEGINNING.



THROUGHOUT RECORDED HISTORY TWO RACES STRUGGLED FOR CONTROL OF MY WORLD. THE ANCIENT VAMPIRES' BATTLE WITH THE HYLDEN CONTINUED FOR CENTURIES.

IN THE END, THE VAMPIRES WERE TRIUMPHANT, BUT THE VICTORY CAME WITH A TERRIBLE COST. THE HYLDEN HAD CURSED MY RACE WITH STERILITY, AND A NEVER-ENDING THIRST FOR BLOOD.

THE VAMPIRES BANISHED THEIR ENEMIES FROM NOSGOOTH, AND THE PILLARS WOULD STAND TO ENSURE THAT THE HYLDEN NEVER RETURNED.

EACH PILLAR HAD A GUARDIAN, A VAMPIRE PERSONIFICATION OF THE PILLARS' STRENGTH, CALLED THE CIRCLE OF NINE.

THE VAMPIRES' WORLD CHANGED AS WE LOST THE ABILITY TO REPRODUCE. NEVER AGAIN WOULD A TRUE VAMPIRE BE BORN. THE BALANCE OF POWER BEGAN TO SHIFT.

WHEN A GUARDIAN DIES, THE PILLARS CHOOSE A SUCCESSOR FROM THE MOMENT OF BIRTH. WITH NO MORE VAMPIRE BIRTHS, IT FELL TO THE HUMANS TO SERVE AS GUARDIANS.

IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF CENTURIES BEFORE THE HUMANS HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE PILLARS. WITH THIS CONTROL CAME A NEW SENSE OF SELF-WORTH.

THE ORDER OF THE SARAFAN WAS CREATED AS THE CATTLE ATTEMPTED TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINY. THE HUMANS HAD TURNED ON THEIR MASTERS.

THUS BEGAN THE VAMPIRE PURGE, AND THEY SLAUGHTERED US BY THE HUNDREDS.

THERE IS NO WRATH AS TERRIBLE AS THAT OF THE RIGHTEOUS.

THE SARAFAN'S HOLY WAR CONTINUED, ALMOST BRINGING ABOUT THE EXTINCTION OF MY RACE, MURDERING ALL THEY ENCOUNTERED, INCLUDING THE LAST TRUE VAMPIRE.

JANDS AUDRON, REPUTED TO BE THE MOST ANCIENT AND POWERFUL OF VAMPIRES, HAD HIS STILL-BEATING HEART TORN FROM HIS CHEST...

...A HEART SUPPOSEDLY IMBUED WITH THE POWER TO RESTORE VAMPIRIC UNLIFE. IT WAS HIDDEN AWAY BY THE SARAFAN, TO PREVENT IT FROM FALLING INTO VAMPIRE HANDS.

IT WAS A DARK TIME. THE DIE HAD BEEN CAST AND THE FUTURE OF NOSGOOTH STOOD AT THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION.

MY OWN STORY IS UNIQUE IN THIS WORLD. I WAS BORN A HUMAN OF NOBLE BLOOD. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT KNOW IT THEN, I WAS ALSO BORN THE GUARDIAN OF BALANCE.

AS I WALKED OUT ON THAT COLD NIGHT, I HAD NO IDEA THAT MY FATE WAS ABOUT TO BE SEALED.

A PLAN HAD BEEN SET IN MOTION BY THE NECROMANCER MORTANIUS. THE CHANCE FOR HIS ATONEMENT LIE IN ORCHESTRATING MY MURDER AND RESURRECTION AS A VAMPIRE.

HE ALONE KNEW THE IMPORTANCE OF MY CREATION - THE NEED FOR A CREATURE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO RESTORE BALANCE TO NOSGOTH.

CENTURIES AGO, UNDER THE POSSESSION OF A GREAT EVIL, MORTANIUS HAD COMMITTED AN ACT THAT THREATENED THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR WORLD.

MORTANIUS HAD MURDERED THE BALANCE GUARDIAN, ARIEL, AND SET FORTH A DANGEROUS TURN OF EVENTS.

ARIEL'S DEATH LED HER LOVER, NUPRATOR, TO INSANITY. A DISEASE THAT HE SPREAD TO HIS FELLOW GUARDIANS THROUGH THE CONNECTION THEY SHARED.

THIS MADNESS WAS THE REASON FOR MY RESURRECTION. I WAS TO CLEANSE THIS SICKNESS FROM OUR WORLD AND RESTORE THE PILLARS.

THE OLD GUARDIANS FELL BEFORE ME, AND I BROUGHT BALANCE BACK TO THE PILLARS. ALL SAVE ONE THAT STILL STOOD IN RUIN.

IT WAS THEN I LEARNED THE TRUE NATURE OF MY FATE. THE MADNESS HAD DRIVEN THE DECAY DEEP WITHIN THE PILLARS.


THE DECAY WAS SO DEEP THAT ONLY THE DEATH OF ALL NINE GUARDIANS WOULD RESTORE THE PILLARS COMPLETELY. MY OWN DEATH AS THE BALANCE GUARDIAN WOULD BE REQUIRED TO RESTORE NOSGOTH, BUT WITH IT A TERRIBLE COST.

I WAS THE LAST VAMPIRE, AND MY DEATH WOULD ALSO MEAN THE EXTINCTION OF MY RACE, WHICH WAS A NATURAL PART OF THIS WORLD'S ORDER.

THE CHOICES REMAINED: KILL MYSELF AND RESTORE THE PILLARS TO FULL STRENGTH, WHILE MAKING EXTINCT A RACE THAT THIS WORLD WOULD NEED TO SURVIVE...

...OR CONTINUE MY EXISTENCE AND LET NOSGOTH SUFFER WHILE I RESTORED THE NATURAL ORDER.

I MADE THE ONLY CHOICE I COULD. THE VAMPIRES WOULD RULE AGAIN, WITH ME AS THEIR RIGHTFUL KING.



AND SO MY REIGN BEGAN. I WAS SECURE
IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WITH ENOUGH
INFORMATION I COULD DEVISE A PLAN TO
BEND THE FATES TO MY WHIM.

USING THE TIME-STREAMING DEVICES OF
THE TREACHEROUS SORCERER MOGOTH,
I TRAVELLED THROUGH TIME, EXPLORING
ALL PERIODS OF NOSGOTH.

IT WAS IN THESE TRAVELS THAT I DISCOVERED MY
THIRD CHOICE—A SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE TO
ENSURE THE WORLD I WANTED WOULD COME TO PASS.

THE FIRST BORN OF MY
LIEUTENANTS WAS RAZIEL,
THE KEY TO MY FUTURE.


PATIENCE WAS MY MOST VALUABLE
ALLY. MY PLANS FOR SECURING THE
FUTURE OF NOSGOTH ONLY
REQUIRED TIMING AND CONTROL.

RAZIEL FULFILLED HIS FATE WHEN I CAST HIM INTO
THE ABYSS, ENSURING HIS DESTINY, RE-BIRTHED
AS A BEING LIKE NO OTHER IN THE LAND.

ONLY I KNEW THE TRUTH OF THE
SOUL REAVER. THE TRUTH THAT
WOULD BE RELEASED WHEN I
STRUCK RAZIEL WITH THE SWORD.

LATER HE WOULD DISCOVER
THAT TERRIBLE TRUTH HIMSELF—
THAT IT IS HIS VERY SOUL
CONTAINED IN THE SOUL REAVER
BLADE. IN A WORLD WHERE TIME
MEANS VERY LITTLE, HIS DESTINY
WAS ALREADY WRITTEN.

RAZIEL FULFILLED HIS ROLE TO
PERFECTION, AS HE SET OUT TO
DESTROY HIS VERY BRETHREN.



TIME HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL ON HIS BROTHER VAMPIRES. THEY HAD BECOME MONSTROUS REFLECTIONS OF THEIR OWN DARK SOULS.

RAZIEL TOOK THEIR POWER, AS HE TOOK THEIR LIVES, BUT EVEN THEN HE DID NOT SEE HIS TRUE DESTINY.

RAZIEL WAS LED BACK THROUGH HISTORY USING THE TIME-STREAMING DEVICES.


IN THE PAST, FORGOTTEN IN THEIR VAMPIRIC TRANSFORMATION, MY LIEUTENANTS HAD ONCE BEEN PROUD SARAFAN HERDES, THE PRIDE OF THE ORDER.

RAZIEL WOULD KILL THESE HERDES, INCLUDING THE YOUNG HUMAN HE ONCE WAS. THIS ACT WOULD ALLOW ME TO RESURRECT THEM INTO THE LOYAL VAMPIRES THEY WOULD BECOME.

TIME TRAVEL WOULD ENSURE THAT THE EVENTS IN RAZIEL'S LIFE WOULD COME FULL CIRCLE, ALLOWING HIM TO PLAY A PART IN HIS OWN VAMPIRIC CREATION.

THIS SET THE STAGE FOR ME TO TURN THE MOST RIGHTEOUS VAMPIRE KILLERS INTO THE MOST RUTHLESS VAMPIRES THIS WORLD HAD EVER SEEN.

HERD TO KILLER, FEEDING ON THE VERY SOCIETY THEY HAD PLEDGED TO PROTECT.



EVERYONE HE ENCOUNTERED SINCE HIS RE-BIRTH HAD MANIPULATED RAZIEL. NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS ON NOSGOTH.

EVEN I, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, HAD MISLED HIM, HOLDING BACK INFORMATION TO ENSURE THE PROPER COURSE WAS TAKEN.

BUT EVERYTHING HAD GONE ACCORDING TO MY PLANS. EVEN THE OTHERS HAD UNKNOWINGLY STEERED HIM DOWN THE PATH I HAD CHOSEN.

THERE I WAS, WATCHING AS RAZIEL FULFILLED HIS FATE AND BEGAN TO SURRENDER HIS SOUL TO THE REAVER BLADE, AS IT WAS ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.

EVERYTHING WAS IN MOTION. MY MOMENT HAD COME-- MY ONE CHANCE TO CONTROL MY OWN DESTINY, AND RE-DIRECT FATE.

I PULLED THE SOUL REAVER FROM HIM, MERE MOMENTS BEFORE THE BONDING COULD BE COMPLETED. BUT MY PLAN FAILED. MORE THAN FAILED, IT OPENED MY EYES TO THE TRUE THREAT TO NOSGOTH.


WITH FATE CHANGED, I WAS FLOODED WITH NEW MEMORIES-- MEMORIES OF WHY THE PILLARS WERE BUILT, AND WHY THEY MUST NEVER FALL.

RAZIEL MEANS TO RESURRECT JANDS AUDRON, AND THAT IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO STOP. THE HYLDEN, NEGLECTED IN MEMORY, HAD LAID A TRAP AND WE WALKED RIGHT INTO IT.



NOW I MUST FIND RAZIEL.


WHEN I STOPPED HIS SOUL
FROM JOINING THE BLADE, HE
SLIPPED FROM THIS REALITY.



DISAPPEARED INTO
A REALM BEYOND MY
SIGHT, A PLACE THAT
RESTORES HIM, AND
ENSURES HIS SURVIVAL.

IT IS A PLACE THAT I
MUST SOMEDAY DISCOVER
FOR MYSELF, FOR THIS LAND
STILL HAS SOME SECRETS
I HAVE YET TO LEARN.

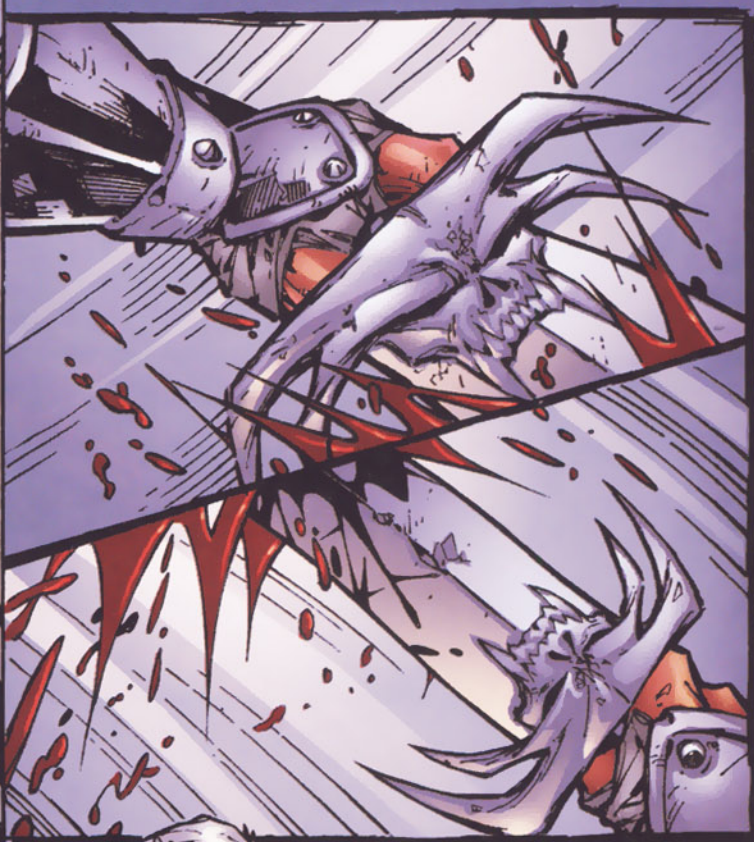
MY ONLY HOPE OF FINDING HIM LIES WITH
THE ONE PERSON WHO PLAYS WITH TIME
AS IF IT WERE A CHILD'S TOY: MOEBIUS.



WELL, CATTLE?
DO YOU NOT WISH TO
AVENGE THE DEATHS
OF YOUR FALLEN
COMRADES?



COME, LET
US FINISH THIS
LITTLE
DISTRACTION.



THERE MUST
BE NO FURTHER
DELAY.





BUT THE
TIME FOR
GAMES IS
OVER.

THE TRUE
BATTLE LIES
AHEAD.

LET YOUR
BLOOD GRANT ME
THE STRENGTH
I NEED.

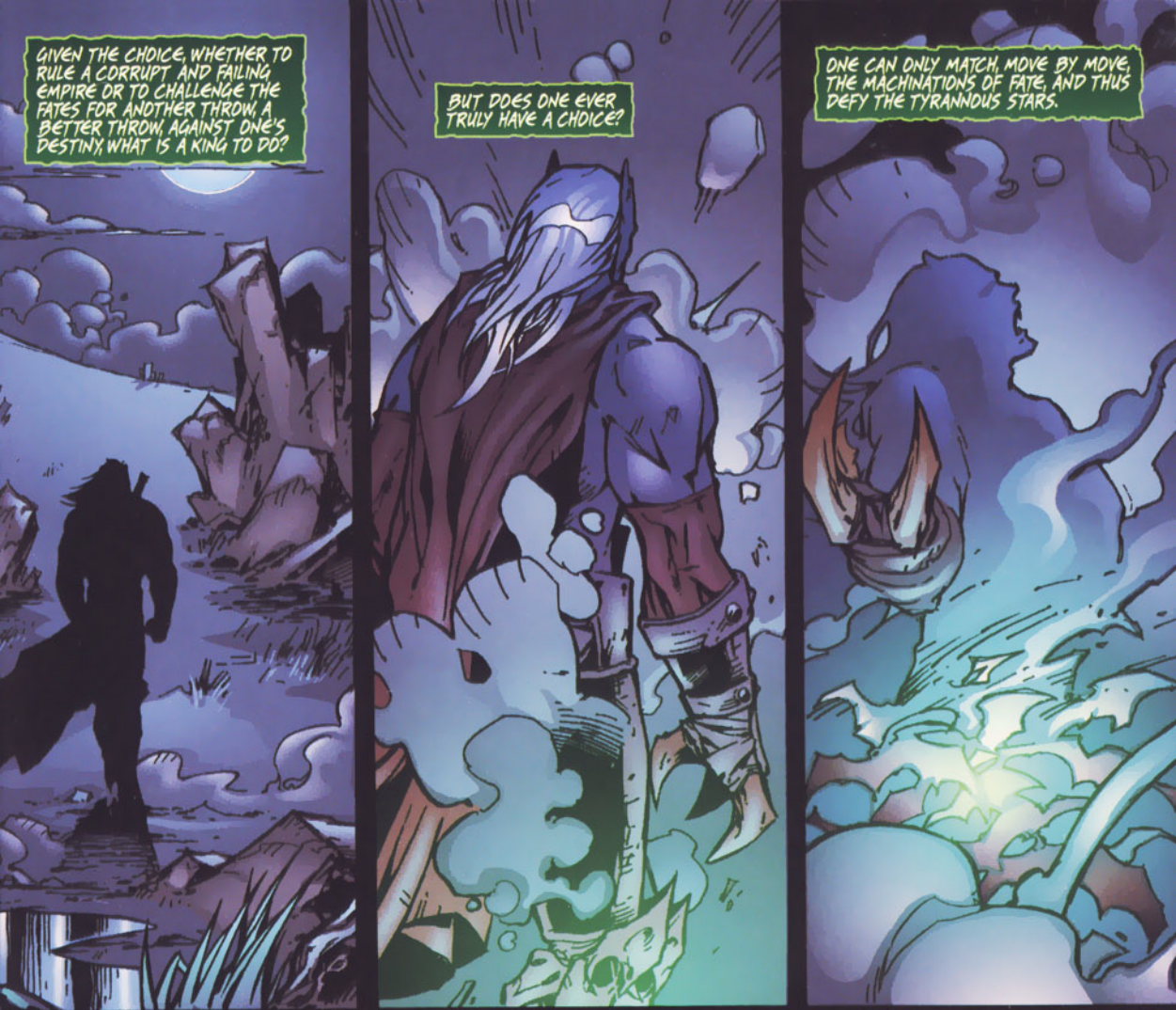


ARGGH!!

GIVEN THE CHOICE, WHETHER TO
RULE A CORRUPT AND FAILING
EMPIRE OR TO CHALLENGE THE
FATES FOR ANOTHER THROW, A
BETTER THROW, AGAINST ONE'S
DESTINY, WHAT IS A KING TO DO?

BUT DOES ONE EVER
TRULY HAVE A CHOICE?

ONE CAN ONLY MATCH, MOVE BY MOVE,
THE MACHINATIONS OF FATE, AND THUS
DEFY THE TYRANNOUS STARS.



THE STORY CONTINUES IN
THE LEGACY OF KAIN:
DEFIANCE VIDEO GAME!